

June 19, 2005

# Freedom Watch

Forces Command Afghanistan



Operation Celtics designed to  
root out enemy; instead Coalition  
finds welcoming community

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Marines of Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, search a shed for any weapons or explosives after an improvised explosive device struck their convoy in the Alishang Valley on May 23.

Cpl. James Yarboro

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Sgt. Joshua Allison of the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, delivers Coalition newspapers to a boy to distribute in his village during Operation Celtics.

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(Cover) Spc. Josh Stegemeyer, Task Force 165 Military Intelligence, and Afghan troops secure a landing zone while on patrol in the Tora Bora mountains during Operation Celtics.

# **Freedom Watch**

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# Patrol in Qalat makes presence known

**By Pfc. Vincent Fusco**  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

FIRE BASE LAGMAN, Afghanistan — Soldiers from 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, stepped off on a foot patrol through Qalat June 1. The Soldiers were there to establish a presence and look for anti-Coalition militants.

Based in Vicenza, Italy, the Soldiers of the 503rd started their mission in Afghanistan in April.

"Nearly all of my Soldiers, including myself, are here after being in Iraq," said Army Staff Sgt. Patrick Potts, 2nd Squad leader. "We all know each other well. I can tell you at least their full name and something personal about every one of them."

The mission of Chosen Company has been to conduct patrols in cities and the mountains on foot, in vehicles, and by air assault.

In addition, they have assumed guard



**Spcs. Carlos Gonzalez and Jason Moore talk with the interpreter for their patrol through Qalat June 1.**



**Soldiers from 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, cross a river during a patrol through Minashan District.**

duty on Fire Base Lagman and worked the traffic control point, checking for contraband and vehicle threats.

"We support the local police, too," said Potts. "We work with them on missions and show them a few things."

The infantry needs to be a versatile force, one that must be ready to adjust to any given situation.

2nd Squad is cross-trained on many different mission skills, said Potts. Every Soldier is a combat lifesaver, and some are qualified emergency medical technicians. In addition, everyone is well-versed in radio and visual communication, and qualified on every weapon the squad carries.

"We have great squad cohesion," said Potts. "When we're on patrol, I can

basically talk to my Soldiers without speaking."

"We have to be able to work together well because there aren't enough of us," said Army Pfc. Joseph Lorman, an infantryman with 2nd Squad.

"We have elements thrown together from other areas to help us out now and then," said Lorman. "But we always accomplish the mission."

Since becoming a regular presence in Qalat and the surrounding areas, the Soldiers of 2nd Squad have noticed a better reception toward the Coalition.

"We've been showing a lot of presence in places that Coalition forces have never been," said Potts. "The locals and police appear to feel more confident and safe with us here."



**Lt. Gen. Walter "Buck" Buchanan III, Combined Forces Air Component commander, answers questions from the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing troop call held at Bagram Airfield June 5.**

Capt. Mark D. Gibson  
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs



# CH-47 Chinook provides invaluable movement, support asset

By Sgt. Douglas DeMaio  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Traveling great distances by convoy in Afghanistan can be time-consuming. What could be a three-hour drive in the states can turn into a 24-hour arduous trek in an Afghan province. Many roads are rocky, muddy and laden with unexploded ordnance. Sometimes, driving through a river is the smoothest part of the ride, and once the convoy reaches its destination, equipment and personnel will have taken a tremendous pounding from the rough roads.

For these reasons, moving personnel and equipment in Afghanistan is largely dependent on air mobility, and the CH-47 Chinook pilots and crews assigned to F Company, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, have been meeting the expectation.

"Big Windy really does the majority of the missions here in Afghanistan," said Army Capt. Dave Hughes of the unit's mission. "If there is something to be moved in Afghanistan that requires movement of more than 10 personnel or more than 3,000 lbs, then a Chinook is the right aircraft for the job."

Chinooks can move artillery, ammunition, fuel, water, materials, supplies

and equipment to the battlefield.

"The Chinook is the largest helicopter in the Army," Hughes said. "It has a max gross weight of 50,000 pounds."

From hauling howitzers to Humvees, the capabilities the CH-47 unit provides to ground commanders is unmatched by any unit in theater.

"Wartime needs come first, so if an emergency re-supply needs to be accomplished, missions that are of less importance get bumped to the right a little," Hughes said. "One single Chinook can insert 28 fully loaded combat Soldiers into a landing zone. If you put two or three CH-47s on the mission, then you can insert 56 or 84 soldiers in at once; now that's a force multiplier."

Keeping these maneuver aircraft operational to support commanders



Capt. Richard Hartfelder

**A CH-47 Chinook slingloads another Chinook to Bagram Airfield from Asadabad.**

and the war fighter takes several hours of maintenance.

"The Soldiers that work in and around the Chinook make the mission happen," Hughes said. "They work long hours... usually 12- to 14-hour duty days. They are the ones that

keep the fleet flying.

"They work very long hours in very austere conditions, from rain, to extreme heat, to hail, to extreme cold and even snow."

Crew chiefs can fly up to eight hours during the day and still have to help maintain their assigned helicopter afterward, said Army Sgt. Shane Bettencourt, flight platoon.

Bettencourt said that if it weren't for the help of the support shops and maintenance platoon, the task of continuing operations in Afghanistan would be difficult.

Managing the aircraft's time schedule also falls on the crew chiefs.

Loading and unloading equipment and personnel while communicating with ground personnel can be a tricky task, he said.

"It's a difficult task," Bettencourt said. "You can't be afraid to tell people what to do even if they are senior ranking. The most important thing is to get the bird up and off the ground in a timely manner."



U.S. Army photo

**A Chinook transports a howitzer at Orgun-E.**

# Setting camp at Task Force Rock

**By Pfc. Vincent Fusco**  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

**FIRE BASE LAGHMAN,** Afghanistan – The days have been long and dusty for the Soldiers of C Company, 926th Combat Heavy Engineers, an Army Reserve unit from Huntsville, Ala.

Since February, they have built 44 tents, five generator sheds, an outside eating area by the dining facility, and three new ranges for rifles, pistols and vehicle-mounted weapons.

They also dug a leech field, a type of waste-water drainage field, part of which was later turned into a motor pool.

The engineers started their construction projects by building Tier III tents, which measure 16 feet by 32 feet and house eight people, said Army Sgt. 1st Class William Johnson, the general construction platoon sergeant.

Lumber shortages and weather have been hurdles the Soldiers overcame during the building of Tier III tents, which provide housing for Soldiers, interpreters, Afghan National Police officers and civilian contractors, said Army 1st Lt. Omari Robinson, the gen-

eral construction platoon leader.

"We couldn't do any work with all the rain," said Robinson. "Everything was so muddy that people could hardly walk around. This was the most rain they had in decades."

The 926th receives a majority of their lumber from Kandahar, with some pieces flown in from Bagram Airfield.

"We try to stay as close to the plans as possible," said Robinson. "When there are lumber shortages, we have to make do with what we have."

Machinery used on a regular basis is rented from local contractors - forklifts, rollers, dump trucks, bulldozers and other machines are in constant use, providing that the ground isn't soft and wet from rain.

When the 926th came, the perimeter Hesco walls were not finished, said Army Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Davenport, the heavy equipment supervisor. The engineers finished that project while the equipment operators were tasked to provide force protection.

"A lot of guys were cross-trained into other jobs just after their advanced individual training," said Robinson. "They all had to put their newfound skills to work. We're still learning, but

everyone's getting better."

"Being here has given a lot of the new guys a chance to experience a new culture and see how similar, and different, we are," said Johnson. "A lot of things are taken for granted in the United States."

Afghan contractors were building a Morale, Welfare and Recreation building here when the roof caved in and injured them. Army Spcs. Louis Parker and Cornelia Smiley, both of the 926th, responded to the accident and provided care for those contractors.

They were recognized for their actions with a coin from Army Lt. Gen. Karl Eikenberry, the Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan commander, and a certificate of appreciation from Task Force Rock.

"We have good leadership here who keep us squared away and let us know what's going on," said Robinson. "The guys from the 503rd (Parachute Infantry Regiment) really work hard to keep us safe by going outside the wire, and we want to keep them as comfortable as possible."

The 926th will be moving to Camp Ripley in June, where they will work to finish a road project.

## Enduring Voices

*What do you think about the Army's new Combat Action Badge?*



**Army Pfc. Lisa Coulter**

Bravo Company, 7th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment

*"It symbolizes how we all learn and use the same basic skills when we are in combat. (You are) Soldier first then whatever your military occupation specialty is."*



**Marine Cpl. Andrew Parsons**

2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

*"It's great to have something to show for your combat experience, but in the end it's just another ribbon."*



**Army Sgt. 1st Class Patricia Hamilton**

18th Soldier Support Group  
*"We are all in war together and are in many of the same situations. Everyone who is fired upon and fires back deserves a badge."*



**Army Maj. Rick Jochim**

Office of Military Cooperation - Afghanistan

*"Whether I was in combat as an infantry officer or a medical officer, I still got shot at and returned fire just as I was trained to do."*





**Mer Mohammad, an officer in the Afghan National Police and a member of the quick reaction force, prepares for the rush of rioters during a practical exercise.**

# ANP taught riot control

By Spc. Jason Krawczyk  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

JALALABAD PRT, Afghanistan – The Afghan National Police completed the first riot control class taught by members of the Jalalabad Provincial Reconstruction Team May 23.

The 164th Military Police Company's police tactical advisor team taught the ANP to deal with different riot situations that arise during civil unrest.

"The two-day class saw a big improvement in the ANP's riot control skills," said Army Sgt. Joseph Mirander, the 164th MP Co.'s PTAT noncommissioned officer in charge. "They're taught a little bit on riot control when they go through the police academy, but nothing this in-depth."

The Jalalabad PRT also provided some new equipment to the police.

"The ANP's (quick reaction force) got riot shields and helmets," said

Mirander.

With their new gear, it was time for the QRF to learn what to do with it.

"The first morning we went over confronting the rioters and moving them where you want them," said Army Spc. Richard Buck, a team instructor with 164th.

After lunch, they applied their newly acquired skills to a practical exercise. Other police played the role of rioters and the QRF had to subdue them.

"It took some time, but they got the hang of it," said Army Pfc. Nicholas Hogan, a PTAT course instructor.

Day two started out with more hands-on training to reinforce the skills the QRF learned the day before. After the review, it was time to get into

more difficult riot control scenarios.

The QRF learned the wedge, a method of extracting someone from the middle of a riot, and multiple other tactics to deal with rioters.

"The hardest part of teaching the ANP's QRF was the language barrier. I would say something to the linguist who would translate it. Then, the ANP QRF would ask a question and the process would be reversed. It was a time-consuming process, but the job got done. Now the ANP QRF is better equipped and trained to deal with rioters," said Mirander.

The QRF students agree with Mirander's assessment.

"This class has given us the tools and training to deal with riots on our own and in a civil manner," said Mer Mohammad, a QRF team member.

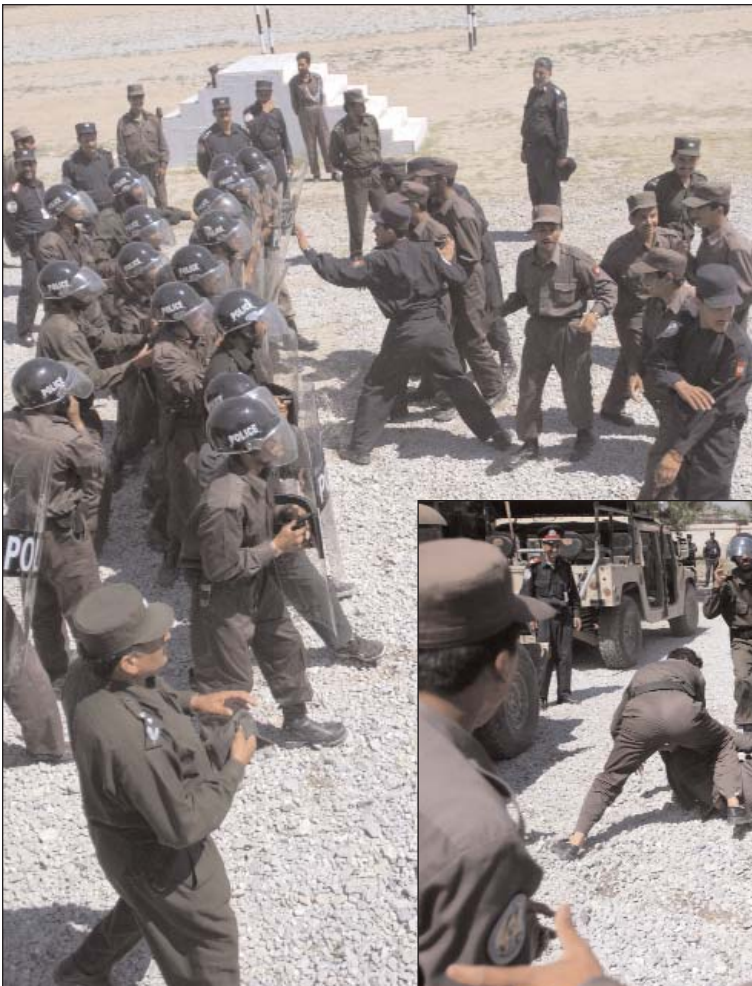
While this course had 20 police officers, more than a hundred are waiting to take the training class.

(Far left) Afghan National Police practice riot control techniques during a two-day class instructed by the 164th Military Police Company in Jalalabad.

(Left) Members of the Afghan National Police's quick reaction force restrain a fellow officer in a practical training exercise.



Afghan National Police acting as rioters try to break through a riot line that the ANP's quick reaction force deployed during training May 23.









# Operation Celtics

## Coalition returns to Tora Bora

By Sgt. 1st Class Rick Scavetta  
Combined Joint Task Force-76 Public Affairs



Cpl. Olin Wiland, an engineer with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, watches for enemy as a fellow Marine crosses the Alishing River northwest of Mehtar Lam.





(Left) Lance Cpl. Nick Collier, of Orlando, Fla., and his comrades from Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, conduct extensive searches of nearby villages after anti-Coalition militants attacked their convoy using a roadside bomb.

(Below) U.S. Navy Corpsman David Stanfield watches a U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook descend into a landing zone to drop off aid supplies for Marines to distribute during Operation Celtics.

JALALABAD, Afghanistan – When the U.S. Marine Corps' 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, ventured into the Tora Bora mountains recently to hunt down enemy fighters, they instead found Afghans eager for a brighter future.

The mission, dubbed Operation Celtics, began as an offensive mission in an enemy sanctuary – the rugged mountains of Nangahar Province that stretch along the Pakistan border.

It was one of several missions launched in May by Coalition troops to locate insurgents. Afghan National Army soldiers took part in the operations. "Lima" Company Marines were prepared for a fight, but found them-

selves sipping tea with village elders.

In the first few days of the operation, the Marines distributed roughly eight tons of civic aid – without a shot being fired.

"It's a sign of success that we're not getting shot at," said Marine Capt. Eric Kelly, Company L commander.

Insurgents operating in the area would likely rely upon local villagers for support while transiting through the high-altitude passes, Kelly said. Marines patrolled into remote villages, set up security and talked with locals to assess their needs and gain information on enemy activity.

Keying the radio, Kelly called to 3/3 headquarters at Jalalabad Airfield, where aviation assets from the U.S. Army's F Company, 3rd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment – known to troops as "Big Windy" – were on standby to airlift bundles of civic aid.

Within minutes, Marines heard the heavy "thud-a-thud" of the CH-47



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Rick Scavetta



**Afghan National Army soldiers keep lookout for enemy fighters during a patrol conducted with 3/3 Marines in the Tora Bora mountains.**

Chinook echoing through the valley. A U.S. Air Force controller working with the Marines popped a canister of green smoke to mark the landing zone and talked to the approaching Army pilot. Marines rushed into the blowing dust to pull bundles of supplies off the helicopter's back ramp.

**See Celtics next page**



"When fighting an insurgency, the way to win is to get the people on your side," said Marine 1st Lt. J.P. Sienicki, 25, of Long Valley, N.J. "When you're handing out food and blankets to help people in this rugged, austere landscape, you're helping out on the most personal level."

Security during the mission was key, said Sienicki, Lima's weapons platoon commander.

The Marines were "set up for success" by having Air Force A-10 jet fighters overhead during the mission's initial stage, he said. A platoon from the Afghan National Army marched alongside the Marines, contributing to interaction with the locals and establishing perimeter security when the troops stopped near villages.

"If our Army works hard with the Americans and gets back on its feet, then we will no longer need the U.S. for support," said Janet Ghul, an Afghan soldier from Chapahar Province.

Ghul and his fellow Afghan troops use their knowledge of the local culture to assess progress during the military operations.



**Marines like Lance Cpl. Jeremy Bingham support Afghan soldiers operating vehicle checkpoints along the Kabul-Jalalabad road.**

Ghul recalled how the Russian soldiers stormed his home and killed his father. The Coalition forces' approach makes Afghans feel more comfortable, he said.

"Before they did not like foreigners," Ghul said. "Now they see (the United States) building the country and they are happy."

On a ridge overlooking the Pachir Agam valley, Marines set up camp outside the Gerakhil Primary school, a 12-room edifice built in 2004 by a U.S.-led provincial reconstruction team.

About 700 local boys who once studied out in the

open now have furnished classrooms, said Capt. Michael Greer, 35, an Army Reserve officer from the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion.

"You build a school and you make people choose," Greer said. "It's either help from the Afghan government and its Coalition allies or supporting the bad guys."

Nearby, Afghan villagers clustered around the helicopter landing zone.

Marine Sgt. Joshua Allison, 23, of Stroudsburg, Penn., spent the afternoon of his 23rd birthday loading the arms of Afghan boys with bundles of blankets, rugs, food and medicine.

In the village, Navy Corpsman Daniel Mayberry, 21, of Gaithersburg, Md., began treating ailments and injuries in a makeshift clinic.

"We're trying to better this country's problems and let them know we care," Mayberry said. "The local people are trying to get on with their everyday lives and there's people - Taliban and al-Qaida - threatening their lives. If we show them that we're here to help, they

*See Celtics next page*



**(Above) A "Big Windy" Army CH-47 Chinook ferries Afghan and U.S. troops high into the Tora Bora mountains for Operation Celtics.**

**(Below) A mortar team from Lima Company fires a test round from a remote patrol base in the Tora Bora mountains.**







may tell us where are the bad guys with the weapons."

Gaining the locals' trust is the only way to get their support, said Marine Cpl. Stephen Patterson, 22, of Conyers, Ga.

Patterson often mans a 60 mm mortar on Marine firebases. But when he gets out on patrols, he sees Afghanistan's future in the droves of children who swarm around Marines.

"There's something about kids," Patterson said. "Their parents saw what other foreign armies did here, but the kids are exposed to the way we are doing things. Maybe they can tell their parents about what we're doing and remember what we've done for them."

**(Top right)** Part of the mission during Operation Celtics was to seek out local leaders and discuss their support of the Coalition.

**(Bottom right)** After narrowly escaping an improvised explosive device attack on their Humvee, Marines from Kilo Co. are interviewed by an NBC Nightly News crew at the site of the attack in the Alishing Valley, just north of Mehtar Lam.

**(Left)** Lima Co. Marines and Afghan soldiers cross a river on a makeshift bridge during Operation Celtics. The joint patrol launched the Marines deep into the Tora Bora mountains south of Jalalabad.





(Above) Marine Sgt. Joshua Allison, of Stroudsburg, Pa., hands out civic assistance packages south of Jalalabad during Operation Celtics.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Rick Scavetta

## PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Soldiers from the Afghan National Army search a villager before distributing civic aid during Operation Nam Dong 2 in Uruzgan Province May 24.

*Spc. Johnny R. Aragon  
Combat Camera*

If you have high-quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to [freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil](mailto:freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil). Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.



# Grand mosque finished

By Spc. Jason Krawczyk  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

JALALABAD, Afghanistan – The Jalalabad Provincial Reconstruction Team's hard work paid off as Nangarhar Province's grand mosque was reopened May 24.

Three months ago, the U.S. Marine Corps' 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, took on the task of fixing the long list of problems the mosque had.

"There is damage from the Soviet war, civil war and from al-Qaida. The roof leaked, the tile on the dome and floor was severely damaged and the fans were not operational," said Dean Mirzada, a linguist with the Jalalabad PRT.

It took the Jalalabad PRT three months and \$30,000 to make the mosque look like new again.

"Tiling the dome was the biggest challenge we encountered on the proj-

ect. Besides that, things flowed smoothly," said Mirzada.

"With the restoration complete, it means that Afghans can come from all around the Nangarhar Province and pray and worship here. This mosque is

a sign the Coalition forces are here to help us and rebuild Afghanistan," said Imam Mohammad Khaksar, the head of the Nangarhar Province Islam.

The mosque is the grand mosque for the Nangarhar Province and is the



Spc. Jason Krawczyk

Lt. Col. Jim Ruf, the Jalalabad Provincial Reconstruction Team commander, and Imam Mohammad Khaksar, both center, cut the ribbon to celebrate the reopening of the Grand Nangarhar Mosque in Jalalabad.

## Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week



### Afghan cultural tidbit

Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week:  
Can you speak English?

#### Dari

Aya Shuma Ba Zabani Gap Zada Metawaneed

(Aya-Shu-ma Ba Zab-ani Gap Za-da Metawa-need)

#### Pashtu

Tasi Kawalashi Che Pa Englice Zhaba Khabari Wakrai

(Tasi Kawalashi Che Pa Englice Zhaba Khabari Wakrai)

**Public education is a concept that arrived in Afghanistan very recently and never had a chance to take hold. It wasn't until 1969 that the government legislated free and compulsory education for children between the ages of 7 and 15, and the country had only 10 years to implement the legislation before the Soviet invasion. The actual provision of schools, teachers, and books lagged far behind the legislation. It is estimated that only one-third of school-age Afghan children ever attended school during the 1980s.**

(Source: <http://www.culturalorientation.net/afghan/aeco.html>)



# JLC changing lives locally

## CERP provides avenue for commanders to help Afghans

**By Brannon Lamar**

**Joint Logistics Command Public Affairs**

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Winning the Global War on Terrorism requires more than winning on the battlefield. True victory over those who oppress involves bringing physical, social and economic freedom to people who have lived in the shadows of tyranny.

That's why U.S. and Coalition forces are helping the people of Afghanistan to rebuild all aspects of their nation. It's a total team effort involving troops, teachers, health workers, engineers, non-governmental aid organizations, civilian contract businesses, and the governments of the United States and Afghanistan.

One tool in the effort is the Commander's Emergency Response Program. Using funds authorized by Congress, CERP allows U.S. forces not only to donate excess food and Class-I supplies - but also pay host-nation contractors to move these products to distribution centers.

"The CERP program gives us options that we didn't have before," said Capt. Jose Cora, Joint Logistics Command relief officer.

While the program's first and foremost goal is to feed hungry people, it has several indirect benefits. Some of the rations are used to supplement the income of essential government workers. This assists in making what many times are meager salaries go much farther each month, and keeps valued employees in important jobs, adding to the stability of the new Afghan government.

Dr. Hasam Udin Hamra, the director of Curative Medicine at the Afghanistan Ministry of Health in Kabul, offered praise for the program. "We thank you for all of your assistance, especially the rations that you provide our employees. But we ask that you expand the service, if possible. We have many other hospitals and communities that would benefit from this."

But the changes aren't just economic. While CERP and other Coalition efforts are bringing civic assistance and thousands of jobs to Afghanistan,

they are also offering new opportunities.

Zarghuna Walizadah is a woman of strength and spirit. After the Taliban were defeated, she decided to get off the sidelines and took over operation of her late husband's transportation company. Her business was recently awarded a shipping contract with the Coalition to move military and civic-assistance supplies. Clad in a burkha, she respects the customs and traditions of her culture.

However, in private conferences, she's all business and sees no reason why gender should prevent anyone

**"They faced many difficulties with the Taliban. But they are better now. The biggest difficulties now are with the poverty that some students and teachers are facing."**

**Nadifah  
Kabul school administrator**

from reaching their potential.

"I want to prove to the women or the men that I know this is a tough job, but I want to prove that I can do it as well," said Walizadah. "Also, I want to encourage all the ladies of Afghanistan to get into the field. Let's do it. We can do it and I challenge all the women in our neighboring countries that we are capable of doing the same job that a man can do."

A woman in charge of a transportation company has raised more than a few eyebrows. She and several of her employees have received threats. But Walizadah is determined to forge ahead in her efforts to build a successful business and serve as an example of new opportunity.

"I would like to send the message to everyone in Afghanistan that after 23 years of war, we are living in peace. That peace allows me to come here and establish my trucking business. I

know it's a tough job, but I'm still in the business. And we are looking forward to the future. Peace will prevail and we will continue to live a civil and normal life," said Walizadah.

One of the most important goals is to re-establish education across the country. After years of Taliban persecution, schools are again in the business of teaching young minds.

The Joint Logistics Command and other units are assisting schools with donated books and supplies. But with the CERP program, new avenues of assistance are possible. Like other government employees, teachers in Afghanistan are fiercely dedicated to their jobs. And through civic assistance programs, they can supplement their income with non-monetary benefits.

Nadifah is a school administrator in Kabul. Her campus has more than 10,000 students enrolled. So many students are now attending classes that the school operates in three shifts.

While packed into several older buildings, the students and teachers seem to radiate enthusiasm. They remember the past darkly, and are excited about the future, despite some of the hardships they deal with today.

"They faced many difficulties with the Taliban," said Nadifah. "But they are better now. The biggest difficulties now are with the poverty that some students and teachers are facing."

But what appears to be the biggest benefit to all is the personal interaction.

British Capt. Daniel Lama, of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Gurkha Rifles, often takes assistance teams to sites in the Kabul area. He says that one of the most important aspects is to work as a team, with local governments, U.S. forces, and other aid organizations.

"Given the opportunity to work with the locals, face to face and seeing the results immediately, even if it's just seeing the smile on a child's face, that in itself has a satisfaction," said Lama.

But Lt. Colonel Harry Heflin, civic assistance officer for the Joint Logistics Command, nails the essence of the project down to fifteen words "It helps bridge an enormous (cultural) gap. And I think it builds a lot of goodwill."



# *Freedom Watch*

*June 19, 2005*

He who stays on the defensive does  
not make war, he endures it.

Field Marshal Colmar Baron von der Goltz,  
1883